

20 Gas-Saving Tips from the Michigan Public Service Commission

1. Combine trips for shopping and errands
2. Avoid unnecessary trips. Use the telephone or e-mail to communicate.
3. For short trips, walk or ride a bike.
4. Join a carpool or use public transit to and from work or school.
5. Don't idle the car for more than one minute.
6. Drive the speed limit, or below, for better mileage.
7. During highway driving, use overdrive gears to improve your car's fuel economy.
8. Avoid sudden bursts of speed, tailgating and pumping the accelerator pedal. Gradual starts and stops result in less fuel use and less wear and tear on your car.
9. When out on the open highway, keep windows closed to reduce drag.
10. Using a vehicle's air conditioner on a hot summer day can decrease mileage. If it's cool enough, use the flow-through ventilation on your car instead of the air conditioner.
11. Travel during off-peak hours whenever possible.
12. Take the shortest route with the best roads.
13. Use the cruise control – it can save fuel by maintaining a steady speed.
14. Keep tires at the recommended air pressure.
15. Keep your car engine properly tuned.
16. Remove bicycle and ski racks when not in use.
17. Excess weight uses more fuel. Remove unnecessary items from inside the vehicle, trunk or truck bed.
18. Use the lowest octane gasoline recommended by the manufacturer.
19. When buying a new car, make fuel efficiency a priority.
20. Don't buy a bigger engine than you need.

STAMP

Michigan Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 30017
Lansing, Michigan 48909



VESCO OIL CORPORATION

www.michigan.gov/gasprices

This Way to Savings

Understanding Michigan Gas Prices

Where Does the Money Go?

When you pay for gas, do you know where your money goes?

For instance, did you know that 90 percent of the price for a gallon of gasoline has been determined before it ever reaches your local convenience store?

Consider the fact that almost half of every dollar spent on gasoline goes to pay for the crude oil it came from, a cost driven by the world market and a precarious balance between supply and demand.

What about the federal, state and local taxes?

Much of that money goes into maintaining the roads. In fact, your local convenience store has only a 10 percent margin (on average) to cover advertising and operations, with a little profit on the side.

What You Pay For in a Gallon of Regular Gasoline



49%	28%	13%	10%
Cost of crude oil	Federal, state and local taxes	Refining costs and margins	All other distribution and marketing costs*

*These costs include all store costs associated with the sale, plus credit card fees (typically 2-4 percent) and other additional taxes, plus the retailer's gross margin.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, January and February 2003 averaged data

Consumer Tips for Buying Gasoline

In today's automotive society, the purchase of gasoline is so commonplace that we usually take the accuracy of the pump and the quality of the gas for granted. Yet, carelessness, or improper care, or deliberate fraud can occur that can cause inaccuracy or poor quality at the pump.

You can protect yourself by taking these simple precautions:

- Compare the price on the pump with the roadside advertisement to ensure they are the same.
- Make sure the pump's dial resets to all zeros before you start to pump gas.
- Check to see that the price-per-gallon remains the same throughout the pumping process.
- When finished pumping the gasoline, check the price computation to be sure it is accurate.
- Visit www.michigan.gov/gasprices for more consumer protection tips.

Consumers who suspect they may have received poor quality gasoline or an incorrect measurement should contact:

Michigan Department of Agriculture
Motor Fuels Quality
1-800-MDA-FUEL (632-3835)



Michigan Gas Prices

Both public and private agencies throughout Michigan have met to develop a series of resources to help Michigan's citizens. These resources can be found on the Gas Prices Web site, at www.michigan.gov/gasprices. This site will introduce you to the efforts already being conducted by these state agencies.

These resources will show you how to:

- Check average gas prices or look up gas stations across the state.
- File a complaint if you suspect price gouging.
- Get consumer tips for buying gasoline.
- Employ driving tips to get the most out of a tank of gas.
- Find alternatives to driving.
- Locate transit agencies, such as planes, trains and buses.
- Discover in-state travel destinations to help you stretch your entertainment dollars and much more.



As part of this effort, the state of Michigan has created a logo that will be placed on these state agency Web sites. This logo will help you identify gasoline-related resources. Any time you see the "This Way to Savings" slogan, accompanied by the logo, you will know you are close to discovering additional ways to reduce the cost of traveling.

Travel Michigan

Have you been thinking about taking a road trip, but high gasoline prices have you concerned? Why not make plans to stay in your home state this summer? When you vacation in Michigan, you reduce your travel time and fuel consumption, and you help ease hard economic times by reinvesting in Michigan. *Travel Michigan* is the state of Michigan's official agency for promoting tourism. Travel Michigan collaborates with the state's convention and visitors bureaus, other regional marketing entities, and tourism-related state associations to market Michigan and provide comprehensive visitor information services. Find out more about Travel Michigan's efforts by visiting your one-stop resource for stretching your travel dollars: www.michigan.gov/gasprices.

Understanding where your fuel dollars go will help you make more informed decisions about how to spend your money. For more information about gasoline prices, visit the National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS) online at:

www.nacsonline.com

or visit us at

www.michigan.gov/gasprices

